and competitive industrialisation. Today, Indian industry is experiencing a broad-based recovery with industrial growth of 8.7% in April-November, 1994. The manufacturing sector is growing even faster at 9.2% per cent and the capital goods sector is growing at 24.7 per cent.

Devaluation of currency and inflation

2231. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous rise in inflation rate during recent times. If so, the trend of inflation rate during last one years, monthwise;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the reasons in hike in inflation rate vis-a-vis the ongoing economic reforms;

(c) whether Government propose to devaluate the currency in the light of rising inflation; if so, the details including the suggestions against such move received from different quarters; and

(d) what immediate steps Government are contemplating to arrest the inflationary trends to sustain peoples faith in economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Government is deeply concerned about the renewal of the inflationary trend observed since November, 1994. During 1994-95, the annual inflation rate has ranged from a high of 12 percent in April-May, 1994 to a low of 8.4 per cent at the end of September, 1994. The latest inflation rate on point to point basis as on 11th March 1995 was 10.3 per cent.

(b) Broadly the reasons for the latest rise in prices are ascribed to the following factors;

(i) high growth of monetary variables, mainly because of strong build up of foreign exchange reserves;

(ii) production short falls in 1993-94 in sugar, cotton, jute and groundnut causing short term supply imbalances leading to sharp rise in their prices;

(iii) spillover effect of administered price increases in wheat, rice, sugar and energy inputs in later months of 1993-94;

(iv) cimulative impact of large increase in minimum support prices continuously for the past three years has resulted in higher primary product prices and produced upward pressures on the wage goods.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government has taken a number of steps on the supply side to moderate the price of important essential commodities. Open market sale of rice and wheat from public stocks has enabled the Government to stabilise the price of both these vital cereals. Placing sugar on OGL and imports of 10 lakh tonnes for supply through PDS helped in overcoming the difficulty that arose from sharp drop in domestic output of sugar in 1993-94. Similarly, import of palmolein oil for supply through PDS on a concessional duty of 20% and, more recently placing of all major edible oils under OGL at a reduced duty of 30% is aimed to contain further inflationary pressures in essential commodities. On the demand side the Government is determined to contain the growth of money supply during the current fiscal year for which a number of steps have already been initiated.

Tax realised from Hindu undivided family

2232. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of assessees belonging to Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) category, both specified and unspecified, and the total tax realised from them during the asseesment year 1993-94; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the exemption limit for the assessees of this category so as to prevent further fragmentation of Hindu Undivided Family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The approximate total number of assessees belonging to the category of Hindu Undivided Family for the assessment year 1993-94 was 4.04 lakhs. Seperate details of total tax realised only from the Hindu Undivided Family Cetegory of assessees are not maintained by the Ministry. Any attempt to compile the same now will involve manual verification of lakhs of entries in